

more time with his parents in Syracuse, NY. He also is starting a corporate consulting company and will remain active within the Delaware business community.

Tony lives with his wife Susan in Hockessin, DE. They have five children, Brian, Carrie, Heather, Meghan, and Dylan.

Through his tireless efforts, Tony Felicia has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and enhanced the quality of life for our State. Upon his retirement, he will leave behind a legacy of commitment to public service for both his children and for generations that will follow. I thank him for the friendship that we share, and I congratulate him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career. I wish him and his family only the very best in all that lies ahead for each of them.●

HONORING DR. CARL TAYLOR

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks today about a committed and pioneering individual, Dr. Carl Taylor, the assistant dean and director of the Center for Strategic Health Innovation at the University of South Alabama. Dr. Taylor earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Marshall University, a juris doctor from the University of Miami, and is a Fellow at the Royal Institution in London. He serves on the State of Alabama's Department of Public Health bioterrorism advisory board and has been the principal investigator on nearly a dozen disaster related grants, including the grant that developed the Alabama incident management software system which he superbly presented recently to the Senate Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness.

This software system, referred to as AIMS, is an online hospital surge capacity and surge capability management tool used to support public health efforts during large-scale disaster response. This easy-to-use system shows which hospitals have available beds, staff, and equipment in real time while allowing hospitals to request help or offer assistance to one another. During Hurricane Katrina, AIMS was the software tool used by the Alabama Department of Public Health to manage information from 83 hospitals and 7 medical needs shelters. AIMS was vital to Alabama's outstanding performance in delivering quality medical care to vulnerable individuals in a time of crisis.

I commend Dr. Taylor for his leadership and creativity in developing this system that has application for the entire country. His work has the potential to save lives and reduce cost. This spirit of ingenuity is what keeps America strong.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the United States and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annexes and Protocol, signed at Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4, 2005. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report prepared by the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is the first bilateral investment treaty (BIT) concluded since 1999 and the first negotiated on the basis of a new U.S. model BIT text, which was completed in 2004. The new model text draws on long-standing U.S. BIT principles, our experience with Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the executive branch's collaboration with the Congress in developing negotiating objectives on foreign investment for U.S. free trade agreements. The Treaty will establish investment protections that will create more favorable conditions for U.S. investment in Uruguay and assist Uruguay in its efforts to further develop its economy.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy towards international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. investment policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment and most-favored-nation treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation and for the minimum standard of treatment. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the computation and payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investment; freedom of investment from specified performance requirements; and the opportunity of investors to choose to resolve disputes with a host government through international arbitration. The Treaty also includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations, and commitments to transparency and public participation in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to

the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 4, 2006.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 609. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following member of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Mr. CHOCOLA of Indiana.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), the order of the House of December 18, 2005, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Speaker reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress for a term of 6 years, effective April 1, 2006: Mr. William L. Kinney of South Carolina.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 609. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the calendar:

S. 598. A bill to reauthorize provisions in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 relating to Native Hawaiian low-income housing and Federal loan guarantees for Native Hawaiian housing.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-287. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the reduction in troop strength of the Army National Guard and proposed cuts in the force structure of the Air National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 229

Whereas, on January 18, 2006, the Secretary of the Army announced a plan to eliminate 6 combat brigades from the Army National Guard nationwide and to reduce the authorized troop strength of the Army National Guard from 350,000 to 333,000; and

Whereas, substantial cuts in the force structure of the Air National Guard may be proposed as part of the Federal budget and Quadrennial Defense Review processes; and

Whereas, our nation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania rely on the National Guard like never before to fight the global war on terrorism and to respond to domestic emergencies; and

Whereas, the National Guard offers tremendous capabilities as an essential part of our nation's total force for national defense while at the same time being available to the Governor to respond to emergencies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, the National Guard costs less than 5 percent of our nation's defense budget but provides the only military force shared by the Federal Government and the states; and

Whereas, the proposed elimination of combat brigades from the Army National Guard represents a shortsighted and ill-advised approach that will adversely affect national defense, homeland security and the ability to respond to state emergencies; and

Whereas, the 3 combat brigades of Pennsylvania's 28th Keystone Division have served with distinction at home and abroad since the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States; and

Whereas, the Army has recognized the capabilities of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard by designating the 56th Brigade as the first and only Army National Guard Stryker Brigade Combat team in the nation; and

Whereas, major elements of Pennsylvania's 2nd Brigade Combat Team are currently deployed to one of the most dangerous areas of Iraq, the 55th Brigade deployed to Europe in Operation Keystone after the 9/11 attacks, and elements of the 56th Brigade deployed to Kosovo; and

Whereas, in response to Hurricane Katrina, virtually the entire 56th Brigade and other elements of the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard deployed to the Louisiana Gulf Coast region on short notice and provided vital emergency support; and

Whereas, the 3 combat brigades of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard are aligned to provide emergency response to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's 3 regions; and

Whereas, more than 4,000 airmen of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard have performed close to 8,000 individual deployment events since 9/11, including initial war fighting support to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom while supporting Operation Noble Eagle protecting our sovereign airspace at home; and

Whereas, major changes to the branch, organization or allotment of National Guard units require the approval of the Governor as commander-in-chief; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to maintain the combat capabilities and force structure of the National Guard; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the Secretary of Defense to reconsider and withdraw the proposed elimination of 6 combat brigades from the Army National Guard; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-288. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey relative to enacting the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION 13

Whereas, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act," established in S.1997 and H.R. 4158, authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Energy to create a federal program of energy assistance grants to public school districts; and

Whereas, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act" is designed to award school energy grants to the school districts that have experienced the highest percentage increase or expenditure increase in transportation and heating fuel costs among all school districts in each state for a specific time period during the 2005-2006 school year, in comparison to the same time period during the 2004-2005 school year; and

Whereas, many public agencies across the country are struggling to cope with a dramatic, unexpected surge in their energy costs, with schools facing an additional burden in that they operate large fleets of buses and heat large, sprawling buildings, and urban school districts are especially burdened by some of the nation's oldest, and often least, energy-efficient buildings; and

Whereas, these unanticipated energy costs are a great challenge, and many public school boards throughout the United States are facing a choice between paying their higher energy bills or cutting instructional staff and programs; and

Whereas, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act" would allow the U.S. Secretary of Energy to award grants to public school districts that are among the top 10 percent of all districts in their state for numbers or percentages of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)); and

Whereas, the grant amounts would be awarded based on the population of children between the ages 5 and 17 of that state according to the most recent federal decennial census, in comparison to all other states, as well as the regional cost of transportation and heating fuel in comparison with the average national cost, as determined by the most recent statistical data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of this State to support the enactment of the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act," in order to reduce the financial burden of higher heating and transportation costs affecting our Public school districts' now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Senate of the State of New Jersey memorializes the U.S. Congress and President to enact S. 1997 and H.R. 4158, the "School Energy Crisis Relief Act," which establishes a federal program of energy assistance grants to local school districts.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the, President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the United States Congress elected from this State.

POM-289. A resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Bergen County, State of New Jersey relative to denouncing the sale of six major United States port operations to Dubai Ports World; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-290. A resolution adopted by the Township of Belleville, State of New Jersey, entitled "Resolution Opposing Governmental Approval or Approval by the Committee on

Foreign Investments for the Sale of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. to Dubai Ports World"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2012. A bill to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of Commerce for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for fiscal years 2006 through 2012, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-229).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2498. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the disclosure of tax return information by tax return preparers to third parties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2499. A bill to provide for the expeditious disclosure of records relevant to the life and assassination of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2500. A bill to enhance the counseling and readjustment services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 2501. A bill for the relief of Manuel Bartsch; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2502. A bill to provide for the modification of an amendatory repayment contract between the Secretary of the Interior and the North Unit Irrigation District, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 2503. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the period of limitation to file claims for refunds on account of disability determinations by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2504. A bill to eliminate child poverty; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2505. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on aerosol valves designed to deliver a metered dose (50 microliters) of a pressurized liquid pharmaceutical; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2506. A bill to require Federal agencies to support health impact assessments and take other actions to improve health and the environmental quality of communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.